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## UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION VII  
726 MINNESOTA AVENUE  
KANSAS CITY, KANSAS 66101

FEB 08 1939

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Cherokee County Task Force Meeting, November 21, 1988

FROM: Alice C. Fuerst *ACF*  
REMD/SPFD

TO: Files

The Cherokee County Task Force met in Galena, Kansas, at 9:00 a.m. on November 22, 1988. Task Force members that were present include the following:

Senator Phil Martin  
Representative Tim Shallenberger  
Ted Kimball, Congressman Whittaker's Aid  
Bill Towery, KDHE  
Joel Wentz, Kansas Water Board  
Tom Allen, Mayor of Galena  
Jack Boyes, Cherokee County Commissioner  
Myra Frazier, Galena citizen  
David Veith, U.S. Bureau of Mines  
                    , U.S. Office of Surface Mining  
Ron Ritter, EPA

Also present at the meeting were several members of the public. Some of these people included:

Marvin Thompson, President of the Rural Water  
District Steering Committee  
Alice Fuerst, EPA  
Rex Heape, KDHE  
Jeannie Holstrom, Galena City Clerk  
Jack Hamilton, Galena citizen  
Wally Kennedy, Joplin Globe

Task Force approved the minutes from the last meeting with technical corrections by Ron Ritter.



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SUPERFUND RECORDS



Ted Kimball gave an update of the status of appropriations for well plugging. Mr. Kimball stated that for the second time the request for \$250,000 for shaft plugging was taken out of the federal budget. He said that they may try to put it into the budget again, but are looking at other ideas also. He has a meeting set to talk to the director of the Bureau of Mines and other individuals to discuss this. He suggested that it may be important for people in the Galena area to go to Washington, D.C., to testify about the need for the shaft plugging.

David Veith, Bureau of Mines, reported that several of the technical agencies had met prior to the task force meeting to discuss potential research ideas for the Tri-State District. He said that some research that was discussed included:

1. plugging up the mine zone to divert ground water away from the mining area;
2. long-term study of revegetation of the area or long-term stabilization;
3. shaft plugging research.

Mr. Veith reported that there have been people from the Bureau of Mines in the Galena area investigating different geophysical techniques that can be used to define the void spaces. The purpose of this is to find a method that is reliable for the Tri-State District. Mr. Veith discussed further the possibilities of funding well plugging. He said that the Bureau of Mines is a research organization and only can do research unless directed otherwise by Congress. Because of that, they cannot have a line item in their budget to do the well plugging activities. It is within the scope of their mission to conduct research to develop a well plugging technique that will work in the Tri-State District, although it is outside the mission to actually conduct the plugging activities. He stated that Congress could appropriate the funds needed for the well plugging, to the Bureau of Mines. In that case, the Bureau of Mines would contract out the work and have the plugging activities done. Some discussions that followed, questioned why the Bureau does not include the plugging in their own budget for this research. Mr. Veith explained that the Bureau does not develop their budget in such a way. One of the congressional representatives suggested that possibly there could be some state funding put into the RC&D budget for the plugging activities or into KDHE's budget, if the research is done by the Bureau of Mines to develop the technology.

Alice Fuerst reported on EPA's activities in the area. She explained the status of the alternative water supply, ground water/surface water remediation and the remedial investigations/feasibility studies in Baxter Springs and Treece areas. A summary of that presentation is attached.



Bill Towery reported on the radon testing that had been done in Cherokee County. He stated that there were 22 houses in Cherokee County tested and radon does not seem to be a problem in Cherokee County.

Bill Towery reported that KDHE has been working with the County in filling in subsidence areas. They have been filling them with construction debris and concrete. He said they will continue doing that as long as it does not appear to be a problem. Rex Heape reported that KDHE has been working with EPA on the Alternative Water Supply and assisted in the sampling in the north area. He reported that as time is available, they plan on sampling wells south of Shoal Creek to determine if the area should be in the EPA-funded area for the Alternative Water Supply.

Senator Martin asked about some seeps in the Baxter Springs area that KDHE has done some work on. Senator Martin asked that EPA look into those. Alice Fuerst agreed that work would be included as part of the remedial investigation activities and would look at it to see if something should be done sooner.

There was further discussion on the funding of plugging activities. David Veith said he would develop a cost estimate for 25 plugs. With that information, Senator Martin and Representative Shallenburger can see about a state appropriation for funding the plugging and put that into the KDHE budget. They would need that information in February during the beginning of the budgeting cycle.

Marvin Thompson, Jack Boyes, and Jack Hamilton each discussed the need to include the area north of Galena into the Alternative Water Supply boundary. They discussed how without the area being included in the EPA funded area, it would be cost prohibited to bring a public water supply into the area. Senator Martin asked what those costs would be. Alice Fuerst responded that a rough estimate would be about \$10,000 per house. Alice Fuerst had reported earlier that EPA will be making a decision in about two weeks on whether to include the area in this boundary. At that time, all the information on the sampling will be released.

The next task force meeting was set for February 13, 1989, at 10:00 a.m. in Topeka.

Attachment

cc: Ron Ritter, CIGL  
Gale Wagner, REMD



Cherokee County Superfund Site  
Summary of EPA's Activities  
Cherokee County Task Force Meeting  
November 22, 1988

Alternative Water Supply

- EPA and KDHE have been working with the Rural Water District (RWD) Steering Committee to set up a RWD. A lot of progress has been made. On October 20 and 22, 150 landowners signed up for the RWD, each committing at least \$25 of the \$100 sign up fee. Another sign up day was held on November 12 and 30 additional landowners signed up for the water service.
- In late November, after at least 50% (225) of the landowners have signed up for the service, the Steering Committee will take a petition to the County Commissioners to request incorporation of the RWD. The County Commissioners have 30 days to call a public meeting on the incorporation. Immediately following the public meeting the RWD will elect a board of Directors. Within 7 days the RWD will approve a set of bylaws. Under this schedule the RWD will be incorporated by the beginning of January 1989.
- Bartlett and West, Topeka, was hired to design the water system. They have have extensive experience designing water systems for RWDs in Kansas.
- Design of the water system started in September. The design will be 35% complete by November 21. At that point it will include a conceptual design of the lay out of the water lines, potential locations for the well(s), water storage tower and the office building. The design firm has visited about 350 of the 400 landowners and has made preliminary determinations on the connections to the houses. Surveyors have been mapping potential water line locations.
- Test drilling of the well(s) will be done in January.
- Design will be complete in the summer of 1989. Construction will begin in the Fall of 1989 and will be completed by the Summer of 1990.
- EPA and KDHE are working on a contract for the payment and operation and maintenance of the system. It must be signed prior to the construction of the well or else there may be delays in the project.
- The EPA is reviewing the possibility of including the area north of Galena in the EPA funded area. A decision will be made before it is too late to add them into the design.
- The KDHE has proposed adding the area south of Shoal Creek into the EPA funded area. KDHE will do the necessary sampling needed to determine whether that area is appropriate to be included.





#### Ground Water/ Surface Water Remediation (waste pile removal)

- In February the EPA proposed a solution to the ground water and surface water contamination problem. This summer, the EPA conducted the necessary treatability studies for the milling of the waste piles. As of yet no decision to proceed on the proposal has been made.
- The mining companies have recommended another solution to the problem and is doing some laboratory tests to determine its adequacy. The EPA developed the testing procedures for the PRPs and are overseeing the work. The PRPs work is expected to be complete by the end of November.
- During the week of November 7, EPA's consultant conducted additional onsite testing on the chat piles to help in the determination on a remedial action.
- EPA has set up a IAG with US Fish and Wildlife Service to investigate the potential presence of an endangered gray bat habitat. If the habitat is found to be in the Galena subsite, the remediation must be conducted so not to disturb the habitat.
- EPA has set up an IAG with US Fish and Wildlife, US Bureau of Mines, and US Soil Conservation Service (not completed yet) to develop a revegetation plan.
- EPA has had an IAG with Bureau of Mines for over a year for technical assistance on the planning on the site

RI / FS in Boxer Springs / Trees



AGENDA

CHEROKEE COUNTY TASK FORCE MEETING

November 22, 1988

1. Opening remarks from Senator Phil Martin, Chairman
2. Discussion of Bureau of Mines activities in Cherokee County
3. Discussion of EPA activities in Cherokee County
4. Discussion of KDHE activities in Cherokee County
5. Discussion of other agencies involved in Cherokee County
6. Comments from other members of Task Force
7. Meeting adjournment



Yellow

FEB 08 1989

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*Gal. W. - J*

